



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

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Wisconsin wins \$2.2 million grant to expand
Advanced Placement to low-income students

Three-year grant targets 46 eligible middle and high schools, impacting about 26,600 students

MADISON—Wisconsin's \$2.2 million federal Advanced Placement Incentive Program grant will support efforts to encourage more students to participate in the Advanced Placement program, especially those from low-income families.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's "Blended Learning Innovations: Building a Pipeline for Equity and Access" grant from the U.S. Department of Education will support a multi-pronged approach for students from eligible middle and high schools throughout the state. Poverty rates in participating districts range from 40 percent to 83 percent. Statewide, 35 percent of students are economically disadvantaged based on family income levels that qualify them for free or reduced-price school meals.

In the recent Advanced Placement Report to the Nation, Wisconsin had the Midwest's highest participation rate (24.2 percent) for 2008 graduates taking one or more Advanced Placement exams while in high school. Of the 15,677 graduates who took Advanced Placement exams, 973 students, or just 6.3 percent, received a fee waiver because they were from economically disadvantaged families.

State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster noted that the grant employs strategies that impact students at various times in their educational planning and preparation. "We want to increase our support for students so they are ready for the academic challenges of Advanced Placement coursework," she said. "Staff development and business, community, and family partnerships are major components of our effort."

The three-year grant targets 19 high schools and 27 middle schools, impacting about 26,600 students. Schools are located in three cooperative educational service agencies (CESAs) and the Madison Metropolitan School District. CESA 7 is headquartered in Green Bay, CESA 9 is headquartered in

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Tomahawk, and CESA 11 is headquartered in Turtle Lake. The CESAs will coordinate activities associated with the grant.

In middle schools, grant funding will provide professional learning opportunities for staff and incorporate study skill courses that will help students develop a foundation for academic achievement.

“Middle school students need encouragement to push themselves academically,” Burmaster said. “Training teachers, enhancing the curriculum, and providing students and their parents support for accelerated and advanced coursework will put more young people in the ‘pipeline’ for Advanced Placement classes in high school and postsecondary study after high school.”

Wisconsin has successfully used teaming of subject area teachers across schools and grade levels to ensure that the curriculum builds content and skills. This grant will expand vertical and horizontal teams in participating schools. Funding also will support testing to increase identification of students who have the potential to succeed in Advanced Placement courses.

Increased access to Advanced Placement coursework will be offered for targeted low-income schools via traditional face-to-face instruction, Interactive Television, online instruction, or a blended approach. The grant also will provide reimbursement for Advanced Placement courses offered in participating schools with high poverty levels.

“As an added motivator for students, this grant will provide scholarships for those who earn scores of three, four, or five on the end-of-course Advanced Placement exams,” Burmaster said. “We are offering a variety of supports and incentives through this grant to help more students, especially economically disadvantaged students, reach their academic potential.”

An additional component of the grant program is development of an Advanced Placement course in Mandarin Chinese that can be implemented statewide. “The ambitious goals of this grant will certainly position Wisconsin students to take their place in our global, interconnected world,” Burmaster said.

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NOTES: A list of schools eligible for the “Blending Learning Innovations: Building a Pipeline for Equity and Access” grant follows. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2009_22.pdf.



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Blended Learning Innovations

Building a Pipeline for Equity and Access

Eligible Schools for the Three-Year Advanced Placement Incentive Grant

CESA 7, Green Bay

Green Bay Area School District

East High School
Edison Middle School
Franklin Middle School
Lombardi Middle School
Preble High School
Red Smith Middle School
Southwest High School
Washington Middle School
West High School

Oneida Nation School System

Oneida Nation High School
Oneida Nation Middle School

CESA 9, Tomahawk

Antigo School District

Antigo High School
Antigo Middle School

Lac du Flambeau #1 School District

Lac du Flambeau Elementary School

Lakeland UHS

Lakeland Union High School

North Lakeland School District

North Lakeland Elementary
School, Manitowish Waters

Woodruff J1 School District

Arbor Vitae-Woodruff Elementary School

Minocqua J1 School District

Minocqua Elementary School

Phelps School District

Phelps High School
Phelps Middle School

Rhineland School District

James Williams Middle School
Rhineland High School

CESA 11, Turtle Lake

Birchwood School District

Birchwood High School
Birchwood Middle School

Boyceville Community School District

Boyceville High School
Boyceville Middle School

Clayton School District

Clayton High School
Clayton Middle School

Frederic School District

Frederic High School
Frederic Middle School

Shell Lake School District

Shell Lake High School
Shell Lake Middle School

Siren School District

Siren High School
Siren Middle School

Turtle Lake School District

Turtle Lake High School
Turtle Lake Middle School

Webster School District

Webster High School
Webster Middle School

Madison Metropolitan School District

Black Hawk Middle School
East High School
LaFollete High School
O'Keeffe Middle School
Sennett Middle School
Sherman Middle School
Toki Middle School
Whitehorse Middle School